



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Burns Waterway Small Boat Harbor, IN

Project Features

- Located on Lake Michigan near the city of Portage, Lake County, Indiana.
- Authorization: Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960.
- Project depths are -11 ft. Low Water Datum (LWD) in the approach channel, -10 ft. LWD in the inner harbor, and -6 ft. LWD in the River Channel.
- Combined length of 1,688 linear feet of rubblemound breakwater structures.
- 5,200 ft of Federal channel in the harbor and channel leading to the public marina. The channel also serves numerous private marinas upstream of the public marina.

Project Needs

- Maintenance repairs of both the North and West breakwaters were completed in FY 2003 and remain in satisfactory condition.
- The current condition of the navigation channel is as follows: Approach channel: current condition is light shoaling, current limiting channel depth: 11 ft. Inner Harbor project depth is 10 ft; current general condition is 2-3 ft. of shoaling, current limiting channel depth: 6 ft. River project depth is 6 ft; current general condition is 1 ft. of shoaling, limiting project depth is 4.4 ft.
- The 2006 hydrographic survey showed greater shoaling in the channel than expected. Sampling and testing of channel sediment is needed to prepare for future dredging. There is currently 22,000 CY of shoaling in the harbor and 20,000 CY of shoaling in the channel.
- The harbor and channel was last dredged in 2000 and the dredged material was suitable for beach nourishment. The sediment was placed just west of the harbor. It is probable that the harbor and channel sediment will again be suitable for beach nourishment, but the sediment needed to be tested for any possible contaminants.



Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- The available depth of the navigation channel is reduced due to shoaling. Shoaling currently adversely affects recreational boats with drafts more than 5 feet and will impact more boats as the channel continues to deteriorate. Within a few years, it is probable that the channel will shoal significantly to restrict all but the shallowest of boats. Funding of channel maintenance in all recreational harbors is lower priority than commercial harbors.

Transportation Importance

- The harbor provides berthing and launching for hundreds of recreational boats. Numerous marinas are located upstream of the federal project. In addition, the harbor and channel provide safe refuge for recreational boats on southern Lake Michigan traveling between Michigan City and Chicago's Calumet Harbor during periods of adverse weather. The commercial harbors in the immediate area, such as Burns Harbor, Gary Harbor and Indiana Harbor do not have any facilities for the protection of recreational boats during intense periods of rapidly developing summer/fall thunderstorms.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, 2008 and 2009
Burns Waterway Small Boat Harbor, IN - Project Needs and President's Budget**

Work Package	FY07 Need	FY07 Work Plan	FY08 Need	FY08 Budget	FY09 Need	FY09 Budget*
Project Condition Surveys	10	0		0	12	
Maintenance Dredging - Primary Work Package					780	
Sampling/Testing and Critical Dredging of Harbor and Channel			11	0		
Repair North and West Breakwaters						
TOTALS	10	0	11	0	792	

* FY09 President's Budget will be available in February 2008